

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Claims 1, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 19 have been amended. Claims 6, 11 and 18 have been canceled. Claims 1-5, 7-10, 12-17, 19 and 20 are pending.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph. The Examiner states that the term "generally" is a relative term which renders the claim indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As indicated in the Attachment, a search of claims of patents at the USPTO website reveals that 205 patents have issued with the term "generally" in the claims. In fact, claim 26 of U.S. Patent No. 4,729,072 uses the term "generally spherical" and claim 5 of U.S. Patent No. 4,574,893 uses the term "generally adjacent". Surely the USPTO is not issuing patents that are "indefinite" as the Examiner contends. Thus, Applicants submit that the claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 8, 13, 14, 16 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sangret. This rejection is moot since the independent claims have been amended to include the ribs of claims 6, 11 and 18.

Claims 6, 7, 11, 12 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sangret in view of Pohl. The independent claims have been amended to define the invention more clearly and thus obviate the rejection. In particular, independent claims 1 and 8 as amended recite upstanding ribs extending from a bottom of the recess. The ribs are constructed and arranged such that as the spherical portion of the engagement member is press-fitted into the recess, the ribs deform enabling the spherical portion to move further into the recess with the ribs defining a stop without biasing the spherical portion in a direction out of the recess. Claim 13 has been amended in a similar manner.

First, one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to Pohl to modify Sangret by providing ribs that define a deformable stop as suggested by the Examiner, since the recess of Sangret already provides a stop. With reference to Fig. 5 of Sangret, the

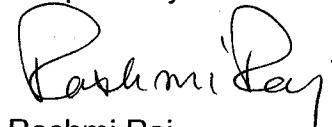
angled surfaces defining the recess that receives the ball 32 already defines a stop. The ball 32 cannot move further into the recess once it engages the angled surfaces.

Furthermore, the combination of Sangret and Pohl does not teach or suggest the features of the independent claims as amended. The "ribs" 28 of Pohl are springs that bias adjustment element 22 against the worm gear shaft 14. Thus, if the springs 28 of Pohl were employed in the recess of Sangret, the springs 28 would actually bias the ball 32 of Sangret out of the recess. The claims as amended require that the ribs deform enabling the spherical portion to move further into the recess with the ribs defining a stop without biasing the spherical portion in a direction out of the recess. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 5, 9, 10, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sangret in view of Schonsteiner. These claims are dependent claims and are considered to be allowable over the prior art of record for the reasons advanced above with regard to claims 1, 8 and 13, and for the additional reason that the added subject matter thereof is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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PAT. NO. Title

- 1 [6,707,391](#) **T** Supplemental automotive traffic safety apparatus and method
- 2 [6,505,425](#) **T** Floral container
- 3 [5,993,871](#) **T** Stable, self-supporting taco shell
- 4 [RE36,213](#) **T** Furniture hinge
- 5 [5,706,877](#) **T** Locking and reinforcing mechanism for garage door
- 6 [5,304,743](#) **T** Multilayer IC semiconductor package
- 7 [RE34,238](#) **T** Fuel tank cap with pressure/thermal relief
- 8 [5,199,610](#) **T** Motorized tooth-paste dispenser
- 9 [5,151,552](#) **T** Tubular choke wrench apparatus
- 10 [4,989,505](#) **T** Apparatus for forming casingless sausage and the like
- 11 [4,955,071](#) **T** Converter console
- 12 [4,946,184](#) **T** Antifriction trailer coupling assembly
- 13 [4,928,467](#) **T** Panel fastener
- 14 [4,910,544](#) **T** Focus adjusting apparatus in zoom lens camera
- 15 [4,901,638](#) **T** Painter's cap printing
- 16 [4,896,072](#) **T** Flashbulb with a heat shield
- 17 [4,886,348](#) **T** Total transmissibility optical system
- 18 [4,875,311](#) **T** Beam construction
- 19 [4,828,450](#) **T** Universal fork-supported push-pull slip sheet handling attachment for forklift trucks
- 20 [4,820,455](#) **T** Apparatus for redistribution of vapor and liquid in a packed column
- 21 [4,814,524](#) **T** Method for converting organic chloroformate to the corresponding organic chloride

22 4,813,449 **T** Poppet valve assembly and method of making same
23 4,804,166 **T** Attaching clip
24 4,793,320 **T** Charcoal burner
25 4,790,350 **T** Combat rapid assembly fuel tank
26 4,786,050 **T** Exercise machine
27 4,783,922 **T** Memory enhancing calendar system
28 4,780,635 **T** Dynamo-electric machine lamination construction
29 4,778,071 **T** Closure with snap type hinge
30 4,763,972 **T** Differential absorption polarizer, a method of forming same and device implementing said method
31 4,762,272 **T** Box formed from two tray-type containers
32 4,759,384 **T** Apparatus for spin-cleaning slender paint brushes
33 4,758,867 **T** Microfilm recorder system
34 4,756,939 **T** Absorbent pad for use in packaging food products
35 4,756,505 **T** Expandable enclosure for freeze forming meat or poultry products
36 4,756,168 **T** Earring construction
37 4,754,882 **T** Magnetic scrap block
38 4,733,924 **T** Combination packing case and desk
39 4,732,188 **T** Fuel tank cap with pressure/thermal relief
40 4,729,072 **T** Front lighting system for motor vehicle
41 4,722,741 **T** Production of high methane content product by two phase anaerobic digestion
42 4,709,608 **T** Apparatus for securely holding a loaf food product during slicing
43 4,706,437 **T** Offset anchor
44 4,705,492 **T** Automotive infinite transmission
45 4,703,960 **T** Power-operated window lock
46 4,701,653 **T** Disk drive with internal brake and static discharge
47 4,700,963 **T** Variable angle steering system
48 4,697,766 **T** Device for ascending and descending a kite string
49 4,696,372 **T** Portable step and carrying device for stud walls
50 4,693,411 **T** Collapsible bulk shipping container

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